(b) if so, whether there has been any kind of resistance from the locals in Tripura, as this has snatched their livelihood;

(c) if so, the details of the hardships faced by the border people as a result of fencing; and

(d) what is the action plan of Government to alleviate their problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) Government of India has sanctioned construction of 3286 Km. of fence. Out of this, 1928 Km. of fence has been completed. Some local people have tried to resist the construction of Indo-Bangladesh border fence as they apprehend that they may be debarred from cultivating their land which falls between the international border and the fence.

(d) In order to alleviate problems of the locals residents of the border areas of the Tripura and to dispel their apprehension, the following steps are being taken/have been taken:—

(i) Government does not prohibit any Indian farmers from cultivating his land beyond fence (in between fence and international border);

(ii) In order to facilitate easy movement of farmers, the provision of gates has been made in the border fencing to enable them to go across the fencing to attend to their routine agricultural and other activities. The timings for opening of the gates have also been decided in consultation with the local residents. A BSF guard is posted at every gate to help the local people to open the gate as and when required by them. In case of emergencies, the movement is also permitted during the night time.

Fire incident in Kirti Nagar, Delhi

3024. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major fire broke out in timber market in Kirti Nagar, New Delhi on 31st December, 2004 in which a number of personnel of Delhi Fire Service and others lost their lives;

(b) if so, cause of fire, if ascertained and the estimated loss of property caused thereby;

(c) the number of personnel of Delhi Fire Service and others, separately, who perished in the fire; and

(d) whether any compensation/financial assistance has been paid by Government to next of kin of the victims and to those who were seriously injured in the incident, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The cause of fire and estimated loss of property could not be assessed.

(c) Seven officials of the Delhi Fire Service and one civilian, who was assisting them, died in the fire.

(d) The compensation/assistance given to the next of kin of the victims is indicated below:—

(i) Financial assistance of Rs.10,00,000/- has been given to the next of kin of each of the seven Delhi Fire Service officials who lost their lives;

(ii) A sum of Rs. 2,00,000/- has been paid to the next of kin of each of the seven deceased officials from the Delhi Fire Service Benevolent Fund;

(iii) Rs. 10,00,000/- has been paid to the next of kin of the deceased civilian also who died in the fire;

(iv) Financial assistance of Rs.1,00,000/- has been given to each of the seriously injured officials and Rs. 25,000/- to those officials who suffered minor injuries;

(v) Rs. 2,00,000/- has been paid to the next of kin of each deceased fire officials as insurance cover by Insurance Agencies;

(vi) One member each from the families of the seven deceased Delhi Fire Service personnel has been issued offer of appointment to the post of Lower Division Clerk on compassionate grounds.

Setting up of composite early warning system

3025. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Tamil Nadu had